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South Portland Man Sentenced for False Statement, Theft of Government Property

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Peter K. Ruach**, 37, of South Portland, Maine, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Portland to 3 years probation for one count of making a false statement to a government agency and three counts of theft of government property. Ruach was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,596.

According to court records, Ruach began working for the United States Postal Service in November 2004. At the time, Ruach was also receiving housing subsidies under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Public Housing Assistance Program. The program was administered by the Portland Housing Authority. As a recipient of housing assistance, Ruach was required to notify the Authority of any changes in his income. Ruach failed to notify the Authority of his employment with the Postal Service, however, and falsely stated on an annual re-certification form that his only sources of income were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and Food Stamp payments. Ruach's failure to disclose his employment caused him to receive approximately \$4,700 in housing subsidies to which he was not entitled.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administered the TANF and Food Stamp programs, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, respectively. Ruach was required to notify DHHS

of any changes in his income, but he failed to do so. As a result, he obtained approximately \$1,650 in TANF benefits and \$1,250 in Food Stamp payments to which he was not entitled.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General; the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General; and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

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